Jewish Student Union sponsors monthly Coffee Talk

The informal forums offer students a chance to get to know professors

By Rachel Rosner

The Jewish Student Union kicked off the first of their monthly "Coffee Talk" open forums with visiting Professor Avi Soifer, former Dean of the Boston College School of Law.

Soifer led a discussion about professional and legal ethics from Jewish perspectives and gave students a chance to ask him personal and professional questions in an open discussion format.

The forum started with introductions around a closed-circle seating arrangement and a warm invitation by Soifer to ask him any sort of question. After a brief moment of silence from the students, Soifer began to talk openly about himself and his Jewish heritage. He shared how his grandmother had a huge anti-war influence on him and how she impacted his life toward social activism.

Soifer inspired students with

his advice to do every action with the future in mind and to always have morality and ethics as your driving force. He strongly advocated the importance of doing what you really care about and to follow whatever passion your "head and heart" agree on.

Soifer discussed the struggle between personal ethics and professional life and his life is one example of how to find unity between the two.

Angela Favero, co-director of the JSU, hopes the monthly Coffee Talk will provide a way for students to get involved with the JSU activities. She invites people of all backgrounds and interests to get involved in the open discussions.

"I'm excited to invite professors into the Multicultural Center and into dialogue on exciting and fun topics" Favero said.

Coffee Talk is aimed at encouraging professors on campus to talk about things they are unable to teach in class. JSU encourages professors to use this time as a personal outlet and a way to get to know students.

The next Coffee Talk will be on Tuesday, November 17th in the MCC at 4 p.m., and will feature University English Professor Richard Stein.

Stein, an English professor active in the Jewish community, will discuss his heritage and interests.

Coffee Talk is open to everyone and is a great way to learn about Jewish issues, meet college professors, get involved and grub on yummy Jewish goodies provided by Barry's Cafe, a local Eugene kosher joint, Favero said.

Panel will discuss student drinking

ASUO Legal Services hopes to inform students about laws regarding alcohol and minors

By Peter Breaden

Autumn leaves aren't the only thing coming down around campus this fall as police issue piles of underage drinking citations. ASUO Legal Services is warning underage students that they're vulnerable to trouble when they drink.

"They're literally sitting ducks for the police," said Legal Services director Ilona Koleszar. "This year, it's been more than normal."

Legal Services will present a panel discussion entitled "Alcohol, Minors and the Law," tonight at 7 in the Ben Linder Forum. The four-person panel will address many alcohol-related criminal offenses and students' legal rights. "I actually was agitated into doing this by the number of tickets in the municipal court," Koleszar said

Last weekend in the campus area, 135 citations were written; 88 were minor in possession citations, said Sgt. Rick Gilliam of the Eugene police.

At the current pace of citations, University students are expected to pay more than \$350,000 in alcohol-related fines this year, Koleszar said.

"If things continue, it could be well over a third of a million dollars," she said. "That's ridiculous."

Koleszar will sit on the panel with Elaine Green, associate dean of student life; Eugene police officer Julie Boyd; and MaryLou Boelke, who is on the legal services staff.

The panel will answer questions and address myths about students' real rights concerning

alcohol violations, Koleszar said.

Several myths about student drinking include: that minors can furnish alcohol to other minors; police are required to give one warning to everyone; distributing keg cups is not furnishing alcohol. Students who register kegs to different addresses aren't immune either, Koleszar said.

"False-swearing is a step below perjury," she said. "Cops don't fall for it, and neither do the judges."

This issue seems to come up every year, ASUO President Geneva Wortman said.

"I think it's just a fall trend," Wortman said. "Every fall police crack down to send the message that drinking won't be tolerated."

The panel is open to all, said Linda Miller, assistant director of Legal Services.

"This is a preventative event, not just for people who have had problems," Miller said. "I encourage all students to show up."

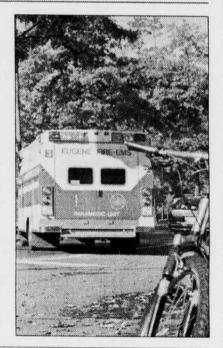
News brief

Car and cyclist collide on Agate

A station wagon and a bicycle rider collided at the Agate Street crosswalk between 15th Avenue and 13th Avenue at 1:20 p.m. Monday.

An ambulance and took the biker away because of what police said were memory and vision problems. At the time, police were unsure whether the bicycle struck the car or vice versa.

Police said the biker was not a student at the University. Police said they were investigating the details of the collision.



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